Africa - 1918
Current

LIBERIA IN WAR TIMES

Southwestern Christian Advocate 10/24/18

By Mrs. A. P. Camphor

Since December our regular mail system has been broken up with the refusal of the Spanish Steamers to call at our port. Germany extended her submarine zone to Cape Palmas at that time and since then no neutral vessel has called here. Until recently we have been practically without mail, and what adds to it is that our mail for December and January has not yet reached us. The thought is that it must be at the Islands or in Spain. Wherever it is, it has not reached us. Four weeks ago we had our first mail direct by the English boat. Now I think it will come that way regularly.

We see from the newspapers that you are having many different—"less" days. We have learned to have ours long ago, as we have had no flour, meat, sugar, lard, butter, etc., for a long time. If we were disposed to be pessimistic, the outlook would be indeed gloomy for the reason that the rains have come on early this year, before the farmers could get their farms burned and the breadstuff planted. Here the farm must burn in order that the dense undergrowth may be destroyed together with many troublesome insects that would destroy the crop, as well as noxious weeds. The rains prevented this burning process, therefore the farmers have been unable to plant rice. We are not looking on the gloomy side of this picture for we believe, in some way, the same One who fed the Five Thousand will provide for us if we do our best and trust Him for the rest.

Since the bombardment by the German submarine, April 10th, many of the town people have gone up the rivers on the farm. Many fear a repetition of that dreadful day when the city was panic stricken. It was pathetic to see the people trying to flee from danger to places of safety. We did not run. After hearing the demands made by the Admiral of the submarine we knew that it was not necessary to run. It was only necessary to get out of the reach of the guns, or rather I should have said range of the guns, for some of the bombs were picked up fifteen miles away from Monrovia.

We went on the beach where we could see the submarine in action as she proceeded with her work of destruction. It was a sight not soon to be forgotten to see her fire those terrible bombs which sweep down everything in its track. The bombardment lasted about a half an hour and then an English merchant ship came in sight when the submarine proceeded to submerge and put to sea to meet the ship. It was a sight to see these two vessels firing at each other until darkness covered the face of the sea. These were strenuous days for us in our quiet little town. What must it be nearer the seat of battle where the fight is thick and fierce?

Bishop Camphor has been away nearly two months supervising the work on the Bassa District. He is having a rather difficult time traveling from place to place on horse back or on foot. A few days ago he had a rather thrilling experience when he attempted to cross a stream swollen by the recent heavy rains. Both himself and horse sank in the quick sand and he was thoroughly drenched. The wetting did not hurt him but unfortunately he lost all the quinine he had, which is indeed a loss to us since we can not get it easily. It is almost impossible for persons of foreign birth to live in this malarial zone without fever unless quinine is used continually. We are a bit distressed over this loss as our agent from New York informed us that he could ship us no more at that time owing to the fact the Government would not grant a licence at that time. I am hoping he may be able to send us some by the next direct boat.

I have just returned from a trip in the interior myself. Three of us went a distance of about sixty miles up country in the Golah section. We made the trip in two days on foot except fifteen miles on a boat. The first day we walked twelve miles, crossed the river, slept that night and early next morning proceeded by early starlight on to Sashtown where we rested until three o'clock, then off for the remaining part of the journey, reaching Klay at 6:30 p. m. Tired? Yes, indeed. A good night's rest worked wondrs. Some of the towns through which we passed were very interesting. The houses had all sorts of crude drawings and markings on them made from the different colors of clay. These are to keep away evil spirits from them. The people were busy clearing farms, picking coffee, making cloth, spinning, making soap, drying pepper, etc. In one town they were having a big palaver over a young man who had been stolen by a Mohamedan slave dealers and they were trying to sell him. The man got away from them and made his way to the station of one of the missionaries and there he was protected. The slave dealers were unwilling to give him up hence this palaver. The captive was liberated and the slavers fined for trafficking in the slave buiness. On our way back this young man joined our party and he is now in the home of one of our party and is doing well. We called him Charlie and he likes his new name very much.

The kings would not suffer us to walk back home. They sent us in hammocks and came on the path with us about ten miles. They gave me a little boy and said if we would open a mission for them they would give us plenty boys but the girls belonged to the mothers and they could not control them. Strange to say two women gave me a girl each, so I have three new ones added to our faimly. I though of naming them, Mary, Martha and Lazarus but somehow I do not like the last name, therefore, I have not named them American names yet. They want new names. I like their native names.

We spent two weeks up there, visiting from town to town but spending most of the time at Klay. When we were ready to return home they would not let us walk, they sent us down in hammocks. As is African fashion eight or ten of the head men and women came with us on the path for five or six miles and some farther htan that. They never allow you to leave alone nor empty handed.

I would like to tell you about the beds and the foods, etc., but my letter is already long for busy people, but I must say this I had a real cot with real springs as my bed. They had a table for us to eat on, mats spread on the floor, and a real door to our room. The kitchen was a large thatched shed, which we enjoyed very much, especially the open air. We had lots to eat—the first thing our host killed was a big fat monkey, with the prettiest skin I have ever seen. Then he killed deer, squirrels, and other bush meat, besides this we had chicken nearly every day, also potatoes (sweet), cassada, eddoes, palm, palm oil, palm cabbage, and rice—the universal dish of Africa. While I was at Klay I found the people greatly concerned about their farms not burning and wondering what they would do. One afternoon it was my pleasure to speak to them at our service and I told them that they were talking about was necessary but it was not the greatest necessity of man. I told them of Jesus and how he fed the Five Thousand and what He could do for them. I wish you might have seen their faces as they listened and asked to be told more about this great Friend to man. Yes, they are ready for schools and Christian teachers.

Africa—1918

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EDUCATION IN UGANDA

In those portions of Africa where European rule is absolute, the educated native is rather the exception than the rule, but in Uganda, where the native enjoys a measure of self-government, his rulers (who are his countrymen) have seen to it that the benefits of civilization be obtained along with the burden of supporting alien overlords. Archdeacon R. H. Walker in "The Journal of the African Society" gives an interesting description of the progress made by the Ugandan in this line:

"The Ugandans quite naturally formed very fertile ground for educational effort. Especially the young men were filled with a keen desire to better themselves.

"For many years the Bible and the Prayer Book were the only literature of the inhabitants. Gradually they woke up to the fact that the world was much larger than they had supposed, and that the setting sun did not fall into a hole at some measurable distance in the west.

"After a certain time broader layers of the Ugandan society, in their eagerness to sell their goods to Europeans, felt the need of becoming more closely acquainted with the three R's.

"Schools were consequently started by the missionaries, at first only in the chief towns; but now almost every village has its own schoolhouse. Soon boarding schools under European supervision were provided for the better classes of the population. Football and other games were introduced. It was not long before the young Ugandan misses woke up to the advantages of a fair education. When the idea of educating girls was first brought before the native chiefs it was laughed at as quite absurd. Now, however, girls schools are counted by the score."

There are at present 272 schools in Uganda, with 35,426 pupils of both sexes.

STATE OF ALGERIA PROSPERS BY WAR

The French Colony Shows Remarkable Economic Growth Despite the World War—Heavy Imports From America.

By Davis Edwards.

Paris, March 9.—In 1856 Algeria boasted 2,328,000 native inhabitants, and twenty-five years after, in 1876, she had 2,463,000, but during this period, although the work of conquest by France was finished, colonization was scarcely encouraged at all.

The period 1876 to 1896 was the period of intense colonization; now we see that during these twenty years the population, which had only increased by 120,000 during the preceding twenty years, increased during this period by 1,300,000 without any really important increases in the territory of Algeria. In the twenty years which followed, and during which there was no serious extension in the populated territory, the population of Algeria increased again by about 1,000,000. Nothing can show more clearly how the fate of the native population is linked with the development of the civilization of the country than the following table:

Development of the population of Algeria:

Year.	Frenchmen.	Musulmans.	Foreigners.	Total.
1856...	92,738	2,328,091	66,544	2,495,761
1876...	156,365	2,462,936	155,072	2,867,626
1896...	318,139	3,764,600	229,027	4,430,372
1911...	562,931	4,709,276	218,362	5,563,228

Commerce shows a parallel development, as may be judged from the following table:

Trade (in 1,000 francs):

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1840.....	54,872	3,631	58,500
1850.....	67,178	9,140	76,318
1860.....	170,377	66,203	236,580
1870.....	153,513	98,606	252,119
1880.....	235,647	178,340	413,987
1890.....	260,090	248,901	508,991
1900.....	13,330	221,788	535,118
1913.....	667,305	501,169	1,168,474

The movement of exchange between Algeria and the United States has not been large in proportion to the importance of the North American market. The cause lies in the fact of the similarity as regards agriculture and mining of the two countries, and the absence of a regular trade service.

American Trade.

In spite of this, the situation could become advantageous for the United States, which saw its imports mount from 3,500,000 in 1910 to 13,000,000 in 1913, while exports from Algeria to the United States in the same time remained almost stationary.

The American goods most usually sold in this colony are mineral oils, machines and tools of every kind, building wood and leaf tobacco. The United States obtains in Algeria raw cork, raw hides, vegetable hair and raw tartar, but it is mostly for the supply of fresh aid dried goat skins that the United States comes to Algeria. We should remember here that for some years the United States government has been occupied with the question of the acclimatization of date-growing. Several times missions have been sent to Algeria in order to obtain shoots from superior quality date fruit trees.

These commercial relationships which we have just indicated in figures are not the only points with regard to which Algeria and the United States are commonly interested. They are drawn together by the study of several agricultural questions of the highest importance, among the first of which is the method of "Dry Farming" by which Algeria is trying to draw great profit from the experience of the United States. On the one hand the raising of sheep, flock management, shearing, refining and classificaion of wools, and on the other hand the provision of green crops for food in times of drought are the objects of the Algerian agricultural studies and Algerians look for lessons from American experience.

Modern Algerian Prosperity.

Algeria, having seen its economic regime seriously threatened by the war, has been the scene of a remarkable renaissance. Thus, the total of imports which was 443,000,000 francs in the first half of 1914, fell to 343,000,000 for the same period in 1915, and again for the same period in 1916 it went up to

MOTON WITH OTHERS VISITS PRESIDENT REGARDING LIBERIA

(Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 23.—President Wilson has been asked by a committee headed by Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, to give his approval to a loan of $5,000,000 from the United States to Liberia. The president was told that Liberia with financial assistance could furnish large quantities of foodstuffs, particularly rice, to the allies.

GERMAN U-BOAT HEAVILY SHELLS LIBERIA CAPITAL

Big Submarine Appeared at Monrovia on April 10 and Opened Fire—Extensive Damage Done.

Washington, April 12.—A German submarine of the largest sea-going type on April 10, appeared in the port of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, and bombarded the wireless and cable stations there, the state department has been informed in an official dispatch.

The submarine threw scores of shells from her deck guns into the wireless station, causing extensive damage. She had just turned her attention to the cable office when a steamer was sighted passing the harbor mouth. The submarine left in chase and did not return.

Liberia is a negro republic with a population of between one and two millions. It declared war on Germany August 4, 1917. Relations had been broken previously but the war declaration permitted the internment of many German merchants and others, who had been accused of unneutral activities.

department came from Robert C. Bundy, in charge of the American legation at Monrovia. The first message he sent indicated his belief that the submarine

President Is Asked To Lend Liberia 5 Million

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MONEY FOR LIBERIA.

Hon. Ernest Lyon, Minister Resident and Consul General of Liberia has scored a notable victory with the aid of Hon. Emmett Scott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of War. Dr. R. R. Moton and the conference of colored editors and leaders who met in the New Interior Building at Washington recently.

The following telegraphic notice explains itself:

"Washington, September 10.—A credit of $5,000,000 was established today by the Treasury for the Republic of Liberia, which has declared war against Germany. This added a ninth nation to the list of Allies borrowing from the United States.

"The money will be used to rehabilitate the little nation's public finances which have been almost ruined by cessation of trade, and to develop production of rice and other foodstuffs for the Allies. The credit is established in recognition of Liberia's faithfulness to the cause of the Allies, and partly in response to a recent appeal of Dr. R. R. Moton principal of Tuskegee Institute and other prominent American Negroes for financial aid to the Republic."

Colored folks are coming slowly, but due recognition is coming just the same. The world was not built in a day and the full recognition of the black man's rights and privileges cannot come to us over-night or the night thereafter. Let us trust God, the better class of white people in the Southland in particular and the United States in general and all will be well with us.

Liberia, a Negro republic with a population under two million, declared war upon Germany four months after the United States entered the war, and interned several German merchantmen in the port of Monrovia. Germany has just sent one of her largest seagoing submarines to bombard the wireless and cable stations at Monrovia, although the distance is only a few hundred miles less than it would have been to New York. The Hun is ready to go anywhere to fight with a little nation and this gave him another opportunity to play the international bully. If Liberia will only be patient, she can boycott Germany after the war.

SALT LAKE UTAH TELEGRAM
MARCH 6, 1918

PARCEL POST NOT FOR NEGRO NATION

Owing to a lack or requisite ocean transports operating between the United States and the negro republic, parcel post connections between this country and Liberia have been ordered discontinued, according to word received in Salt Lake by G. Spencer Chambers, superintendent of mails, today.

Accordingly, no more packages will be received at the local postoffice for persons in Liberia.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA HINDERED BY WAR.

(*World Outlook.*)

At the outbreak of the war Africa had a total of something like 25,000 miles of completed railway, and was building new lines at the rate of about 2,000 miles a year. At the firing of the first shot much important construction work was dropped instantly, not to be resumed again until the war is over. This affected what would probably have amounted to 4,000 miles of new line that would have been completed in the two and a half years the war has lasted so far. This loss is partially offset by the new construction—purely military lines for the better prosecution of certain campaigns—that might not have been undertaken fo. many years had not the war rendered it imperative from a strategic standpoint. Such was the linking up of the Union of South Africa system with that of German South-West Africa by Botha in pushing his campaign for the conquest of the latter region; and such the running together of the railheads of a branch from the Uganda Railway and the Usambara line at the frontier of German East and British East Africa. Similar construction has also taken place in Nigeria, the Cameroons, northern Rhodesia and probably the Belgian Congo. The total mileage that has been added for military purposes is difficult to estimate, but it would hardly be in excess of from 20 to 25 per cent. of what would have been built had the peace-time rate of construction been maintained. Moreover, like all strategic railway, this military construction is worth far less as an economic asset than an equal mileage of line built for purely commercial purposes.

A preliminary conference to discuss the "Back to Africa" movement will be held in Colon April 15. A general conference will be held July 29. Information may be had of J. B. Yearwood, P.O.Box 604,Ancon,C.Z.
—The Crisis April 1918.p.297.

HOLD CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Monday afternoon Dr. R. R. Moton, Hon. Emmett J. Scott, Dr. Ernest Lyon and Hon. William H. Lewis held a conference with President Wilson. One of the subjects discussed was the situation in Liberia, it is said. Another conference was held with Secretary of War Baker.